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CENTRAL FAX CENTER

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1) (Currently amended) A labeling and/or marking machine comprising:

_____ a feed conveyor ~~(4)~~ rotatable about a vertical axis ~~(5)~~ and equipped peripherally with a plurality of pedestals ~~(8)~~ supporting single containers ~~(2)~~;

_____ drive means ~~(9, 37)~~ associated respectively with the conveyor ~~(4)~~, by which the containers ~~(2)~~ are directed along a predetermined conveying path ~~(17)~~, and with the single pedestals ~~(8)~~ in such a way that each pedestal can be driven in rotation about a respective vertical axis ~~(38)~~;

_____ applicator and/or marker means ~~(26, 27)~~ occupying positions along the predetermined conveying path ~~(17)~~; and

_____ means ~~(30)~~ by which to detect and control an the angular position of the containers ~~(2)~~, ~~characterized in that, the~~ means by which to detect and control comprising a plurality of charge coupled device ("CCD") image sensors mounted rigidly to the rotating feed conveyor, each associated with a relative pedestal supporting a container and each ~~detection and control means (30) comprise at least one CCD image sensor (31, 39) capable of detecting and recognizing predetermined outlines (32) presented by the containers (2).~~

2) (Currently amended) A machine as in claim 1, wherein the CCD image sensors ~~(31, 39)~~ comprise a memory ~~(34)~~ by means of which to store at least an the shape of one reference sample outline, and respective sensing and control means ~~(35)~~ serving to measure an the degree of similarity between the reference sample outline and the detected outline ~~(32)~~.

3) (Currently Amended) A machine as in claim 2, comprising a master control unit ~~(36)~~ connected on an the input side to the CCD image sensor ~~(31, 39)~~,

and on ~~an~~the output side to the drive means ~~(9, 37)~~ associated respectively with the conveyor ~~(4)~~ and with each of the pedestals ~~(8)~~.

4) (Currently Amended) A machine as in claim 3, comprising a CCD image sensor ~~(39)~~ occupying a fixed position relative to the rotating feed conveyor ~~(4)~~.

5) (Cancelled).

6) (Currently Amended) A machine as in claim 15, wherein the rotating conveyor ~~(4)~~ is set in motion intermittently ~~by~~through the agency of respective drive means ~~(9)~~.

7) (Currently Amended) A machine as in claim 15, wherein the rotating conveyor ~~(4)~~ is set in motion continuously ~~by~~through the agency of respective drive means ~~(9)~~.

8) (Currently Amended) A machine as in claim 3, wherein the master control unit ~~(36)~~ receives a signal from the CCD image sensor ~~(31, 39)~~ indicating ~~an~~the angular position of the predetermined outline ~~(32)~~ presented by a respective container ~~(2)~~ relative to the conveyor ~~(4)~~, and responds by sending a control signal to the drive means ~~(37)~~ associated with the pedestal ~~(8)~~ supporting a container ~~(2)~~, such as will cause the pedestal ~~(8)~~ to rotate through a predetermined angle and into a position coinciding with a predetermined position programmed by way of the labeling and/or marking means ~~(26, 27)~~.

9) (Currently Amended) A machine as in claim 8, wherein the master control unit ~~(36)~~ is designed to respond, once the pedestal ~~(8)~~ has reached the predetermined position programmed by way of the labeling and/or marking means ~~(26, 27)~~, by deactivating the drive means ~~(37)~~ associated with the pedestal ~~(8)~~.

10) (Currently Amended) A machine as in claim 9, wherein the applicator means ~~(26, 27)~~ positioned along the predetermined conveying path ~~(17)~~ comprise at least one device such as will affix a label to a predetermined area ~~(28)~~ of ~~the~~ lateral surface ~~(29)~~ presented by each container ~~(2)~~.

11) (Currently Amended) A machine as in claim 9, wherein the marker means ~~(27)~~ positioned along the predetermined conveying path ~~(17)~~ comprise at least one device such as will apply at least one of lettering, and/or an image and/or a logo or graphic symbol to a predetermined area ~~(28)~~ of the lateral surface ~~(29)~~ presented by each container ~~(2)~~.

12) (Currently Amended) A machine as in claim 1, comprising a master control unit ~~(36)~~ connected on ~~an~~the input side to the CCD image sensor ~~(31, 39)~~, and on ~~an~~the output side to the drive means ~~(9, 37)~~ associated respectively with the conveyor ~~(4)~~ and with each of the pedestals ~~(8)~~.

13) (Currently Amended) A machine as in claim 12, comprising a CCD image sensor ~~(39)~~ occupying a fixed position relative to the rotating feed conveyor ~~(4)~~.

14) (Currently Amended) A machine as in claim 13, wherein the rotating conveyor ~~(4)~~ is set in motion intermittently ~~by through the agency of~~ respective drive means ~~(9)~~.

15) (Currently Amended) A machine as in claim 12, comprising a plurality of CCD image sensors ~~(31)~~ mounted rigidly to the rotating feed conveyor ~~(4)~~, each associated with a relative pedestal ~~(8)~~ supporting a container ~~(2)~~.

16) (Currently Amended) A machine as in claim 15, wherein the rotating conveyor (4) is set in motion intermittently ~~by~~through the agency of respective drive means (9).

17) (Currently Amended) A machine as in claim 4, wherein the rotating conveyor (4) is set in motion intermittently ~~by~~through the agency of respective drive means (9).

18) (Currently Amended) A machine as in claim 1, wherein the applicator means (26, 27) positioned along the predetermined conveying path (17) comprise at least one device such as will affix a label to a predetermined area (28) of athe lateral surface (29) presented by each container (2).

19) (Currently Amended) A machine as in claim 1, wherein the marker means (27) positioned along the predetermined conveying path (17) comprise at least one device such as will apply lettering and/or an image and/or a logo or graphic symbol to a predetermined area (28) of athe lateral surface (29) presented by each container (2).